



Equality-based Community
Support And Training



ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019



A YEAR OF ENTERPRISE

91

Therapeutic Support

44

One-to-one support for autistic and hyperactive children

60

After School Class for underachievers

46

School Preparation for children who have never been to school

10

Pre-school children

24

Outreach

We are supporting increasing numbers of children and young adults.

76

Vocational Training for young adults



* 2018 - 2019 figures



DEAR SUPPORTERS,

I am delighted to report a year of enterprise for our staff and beneficiaries. Some young adults are using their vocational skill training to start their own businesses and earn an income. Staff have attended courses and developed training programmes.

The Outreach programme has enabled several housebound children to increase their mobility and attend the Community Centres. All beneficiaries participated in our Sonduru Thambanpanniya Dance Event which raised 3,128,250LKR (13,090GBP) for a new Therapy Centre at Matara. We are reaching international recognition through the sales of handicrafts, hosting international volunteers and Friends of ECSAT.

I thank all our funders and supporters for enabling ECSAT to continue to support people with disabilities and help them gain independence.

Thank you.

Roshan Samarawickrama
Programme Director

ECSAT has four centres with one aim: To provide education, support and training for disadvantaged children



Galle Centre
Children having fun.



Dorape
Motor skill development activities



Matara Centre
Stimulation exercise for vocational unit people



Hikkaduwa Centre
Children are playing to develop their motor skills

“
It's been a year of enterprise”



CHARUKA

Charuka (second from left) is 19 years old and has Down's syndrome. He attended a special unit and joined ECSAT in 2017 where he is learning basic vocational skills. He likes making paper bags and sells them.



NALAKA

Nalaka, 38 years old, cannot speak and communicates through signs and body language. He attended a special unit of a government school and joined ECSAT in 2010. He is learning gardening, cookery, life skills and educational subjects but prefers gardening. Nalaka grows vegetables at home and at Galle Community Centre and sells his produce.



GAYATHRI

Gayathri, 39 years old, joined the vocational unit at Galle in 2014. She is the housekeeper at Galle Community Centre.

DAYATHMA

Dayathma, 24 years old, has Down's syndrome. She attended a special unit of a government school and joined ECSAT in 2015. She is learning gardening, cookery, sewing, beauty culture, life skills and educational subjects. She prefers sewing and handcraft. Dayathma started her own business stitching pillowcases, bed sheets, tablecloths and incense sticks.





UDARA

When Udara, 20 years old, joined the Matara Centre in 2016 he was hyperactive and could not read or write. He responded well to basic training in education, gardening, sewing, cooking and fabric painting. Gardening was his favourite activity. He is now responsible for maintaining the garden at Matara Centre and has been sponsored to start a garden at his home to grow pepper, ginger and cinnamon for the local market.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ON LEADERSHIP AND DISABILITY (WILD)

In May 2018, two members of staff with disabilities attended a one-week training course in Colombo run by the Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability. The training covered leadership and empowerment.

Following the training, two of our staff have started their own successful training programmes.

Eshani, the assistant administrator at Galle (pictured on left), is a wheelchair user and ran an awareness training programme for women with disabilities on Childbirth and Parenting.

Thusharika, the vocational trainer at Matara, has impaired hearing and organised an adventure programme for women with disabilities.



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ON LEADERSHIP AND DISABILITY (WILD)





EDUCATION CLASSES

cont./

We run educational classes in the form of Pre-school, School Preparation, After-school and One-to-one support. Our pre-school classes, for children aged three to five take place four mornings a week at the Galle Centre. Nine children have attended our pre-school classes the past year.

We have referred two children to government schools. Our cross-curricular timetable covers Sinhala, English, mathematics, sports, dance, art and craft and life and social skills.

We operate **School Preparation** Classes four mornings a week from Galle (for 20 children), Matara (16) and Hikkaduwa (10). These classes are for children who have never been to school. We have referred five children to government schools.

Our **One-to-one support** is for children with autism; and those who are hyperactive and have difficulty working in small groups. We offer this support at all three centres: Galle (for 25 children), Matara (12) and Hikkaduwa (7). The children progress toward working in small groups as they learn the necessary concentration and social skills.

The **After-school** classes are five afternoons a week at Galle (28 children), Matara (22) and four afternoons a week at Hikkaduwa (10). These classes are for children who are struggling at school and need a little extra support.

As part of our **Education Framework Programme**, we supported children with learning difficulties from low income and one parent families at Dorape (5 children) and Olcott School (30). We have also trained their teachers with support for appropriate teaching techniques. We received very positive feedback from the principals, teachers and parents. They have requested further training sessions. We have implemented a programme of Teacher Training for 20 schools in the Galle area.

We have trained the staff at Dorape, which is a very rural area, to continue providing support for children with learning difficulties. We started by providing after school education for single parents and orphans, some of whom had learning difficulties and disabilities. After working with teachers for four years we successfully handed over the classes to the school and information educational unit at the Ministry of Education. We continue to monitor their progress on a monthly basis.





THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT

At the Galle Centre we provided weekly physiotherapy sessions for 35 children. The physiotherapist from Karapitiya hospital has treated 24 children on Saturday afternoons on a rolling programme.

Six children have improved their balance, 15 can now easily sit on a chair, four can now use a walking frame and two can walk independently. Through our Speech and language therapy 22 of 44 children have so far learnt to talk.

With our Outreach programme we help a further 24 individuals on a weekly basis. Our staff visit some of the poorer families with children with severe disabilities. We have recently helped two children move more easily and now they can attend the Community Centre.

At Matara our new Speech and Language therapy and Physiotherapy units opened in October 2018. With these we can now provide weekly physiotherapy sessions for 12 individuals.





*Photos of dance event by
prauda buwaneka photography*

DANCE EVENT

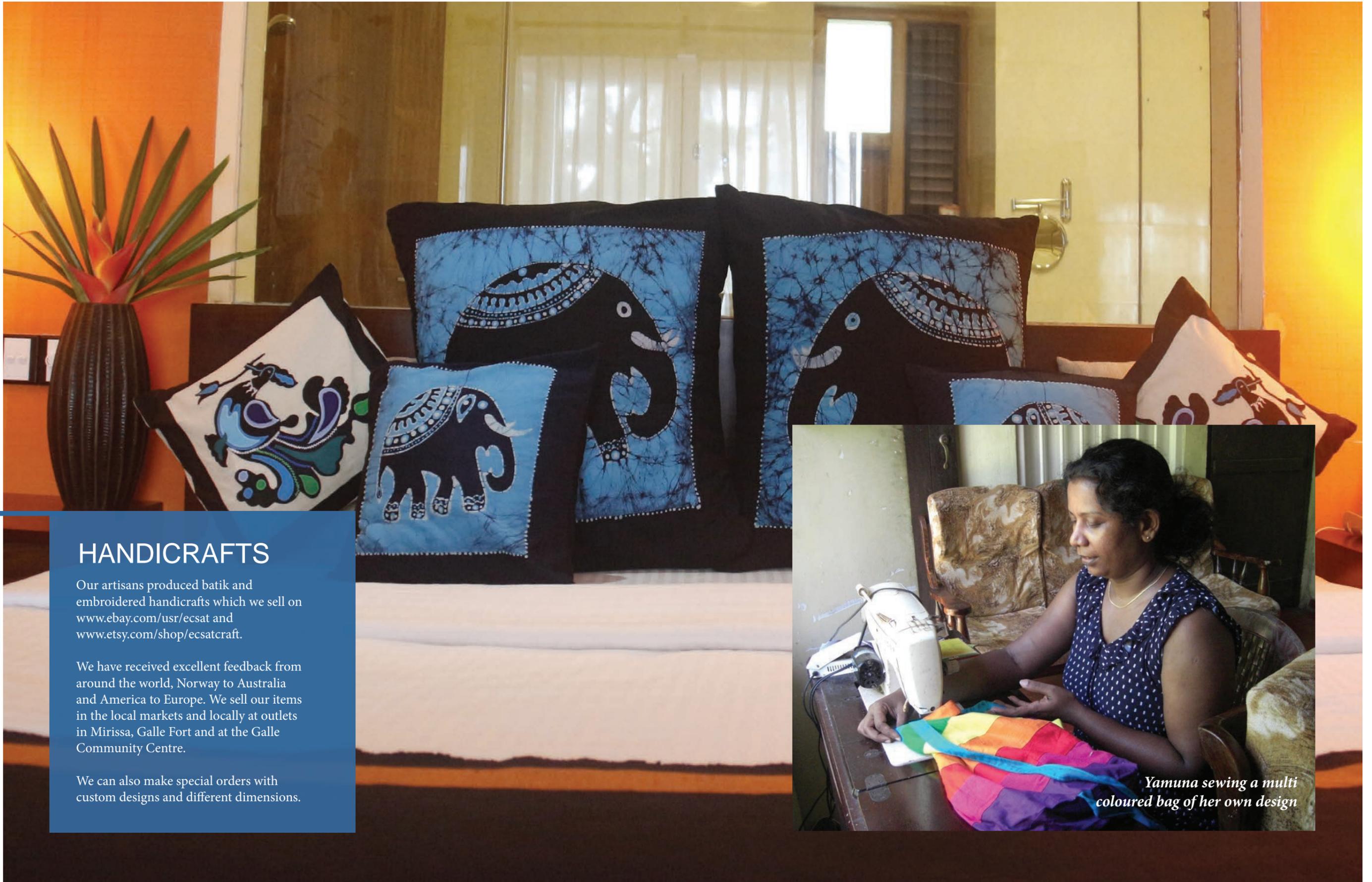
On 7th October 2018, ECSAT held a dance event, "Sonduru Thambapanniya – The Beauty of Taprobane" at Weligama Bay Marriott Resort and Spa. Over 600 people attended including television celebrities. Everyone that we support took part, even those with limited mobility who delighted the audience with a routine that we choreographed exclusively for them.

Through dance and music the performers told the story of the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. We thank the Australia High Commission and local organisations: Doctor House, Hangtime Hostel, Queens Salon, Fortaleza Hotel and Prauda Buwaneka Photography for their generous support. We raised 3,128,250LKR (13,090GBP) which will help us build a new Therapy Unit at our Matara Centre.



SONDURU THAMBAPANNIYA - THE BEAUTY OF THAPROBANE





HANDICRAFTS

Our artisans produced batik and embroidered handicrafts which we sell on www.ebay.com/usr/ecsatsat and www.etsy.com/shop/ecsatsatcraft.

We have received excellent feedback from around the world, Norway to Australia and America to Europe. We sell our items in the local markets and locally at outlets in Mirissa, Galle Fort and at the Galle Community Centre.

We can also make special orders with custom designs and different dimensions.

Yamuna sewing a multi coloured bag of her own design

VOLUNTEERS

We hosted 14 volunteers from Europe. They supported our work at the Galle Community Centre, three days a week over two months. Travelteer helped most of our volunteers arrange their travel and experience with us.



As part of Travelteer I was lucky enough to be apart of volunteering at the newly founded project, ECSAT, for two months. I was mainly working with the vocational class, teaching the students basic English knowledge and skills. It was very rewarding for me to be able to go every week and gain a connection with such incredible people, knowing that the students have learnt something new and that I have made a difference to the students' lives. I also got the chance to work with the teachers directly, helping them with their spoken English, which I hope will help them grow as people and benefit them in their future careers. I would like to thank all the staff at ECSAT for their support throughout my time in Sri Lanka and I wish them all the best with their development. I hope I can continue to be a part of an amazing organisation."

- Charlotte Lewell – Travelteer volunteer (left in image)





THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Our support group in the UK, Friends of ECSAT, funds the satellite centre at Hikkaduwa which is open four days a week and supports 22 individuals with disabilities.

Gayani is the project manager and organises educational and vocational training activities for others. She gets help from two other members of staff.

Currently, one trustee of Friends of ECSAT is living and working in our capital city, Colombo and frequently visits us at Galle. Two other trustees visited the Community Centres in Sri Lanka during the year, one as a special education trainer and one as a mentor to the Programme Director. Our fourth trustee oversees the finances and liaises with the Sri Lankan diaspora in London.



LEMONAID+
ChariTea+



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations make a huge difference to the lives of poor and vulnerable people in Sri Lanka. Please support our work by making a one-off or regular donation. Visit www.ecsatlanka.org/donate.

Our amazing volunteers bring their passion and energy to our work. Find out more at www.ecsatlanka.org/get_involved.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ecsat



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